



**Committee:** Directly to Council  
**Committee Review:** N/A  
**Staff:** Pamela Dunn, Sr. Legislative Analyst  
**Purpose:** Receive briefing and have discussion – no vote expected  
**Keywords:** Planning, Parks, Semi-Annual

AGENDA ITEM #7  
April 13, 2021  
**Discussion**

## SUBJECT

The Semi-Annual Report of the Planning Board to the Council, which outlines accomplishments, current work program items, and both the Parks and Planning Departments' ongoing response to COVID-19.

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Casey Anderson, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Natali Fani-Gonzalez, Vice Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Tina Patterson, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Gerald Cichy, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Partap Verma, Montgomery County Planning Board  
Gwen Wright, Director, Planning Department  
Mike Riley, Director, Parks Department  
John Nissel, Deputy Director of Operations, Parks Department  
Miti Figueredo, Deputy Director of Administration, Parks Department  
Robert Kronenberg, Deputy Director, Planning Department  
Tanya Stern, Deputy Director, Planning Department

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Review Planning Department and Department of Parks accomplishments and work program, providing any input on work program items for the coming fiscal year.

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The Semi-Annual Report of the Planning Board to the Council typically occurs in the spring and fall each year. It is an opportunity for the Board to brief the Council on the accomplishments of the Parks and Planning Departments and provide an update on work program items. The Semi-Annual report is customarily provided to the Council in the form of a presentation.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- **PARKS**  
The Parks Department's Semi-Annual presentation will provide information on the Department's response to COVID-19 - what's open and what remains closed, rent abatement for Park facilities, and several programming changes the Department has undertaken to adapt to the ongoing circumstances.

Parks will provide an update on several ongoing Parks capital projects and programs, including the recent opening of Josiah Henson Museum and Park, stream restoration projects, park acquisitions, Ken Gar Park improvements, the Park Visitation project, and Parks Partnerships.

In addition, the Council will be updated on Parks ongoing athletic fields work, several trail projects, and financial support for Parks from sources other than County taxes (outline attached on ©1)

- **PLANNING**

The Planning Department’s Semi-Annual presentation will include an update on the Department’s almost complete Thrive Montgomery 2050 general plan update. The Plan’s overarching objectives for future land use focus on economic competitiveness, racial equity and social justice (RESJ), and environmental sustainability. The Council will also be updated on Planning’s Focus on Equity initiative, including training, creation of Equity Focus Areas and an Equity Opportunity Index, coordination with the Office of Legislative Oversight on RESJ Impact Statements, the Street and Parks Facilities Renaming project, Missing Middle Housing efforts in recent master plans, and Vision Zero work.

The Department will update the Council on ongoing and upcoming work program items, and provide an overview of several regulatory projects as well as statistics on development applications and community engagement (outline attached on ©2).

Planning’s Semi-Annual presentation will also include their proposed FY22 work program schedule for master plans and studies. (Proposed Master Plan and Major Projects Schedule is attached on © 4.)

**This report contains:**

Outline of Parks and Planning Departments’ Presentations	©1-3
Proposed Master Plan and Major Projects Schedule – Planning Department	©4

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## Montgomery Parks and Planning Spring 2021 Semiannual Outline

### Parks

#### **COVID Response**

1. What's Opened and What's Closed
2. Rent Abatement for Parks Partners
3. Programming
  - a. Open Parkways
  - b. Picnic in the Park
  - c. Special Events
  - d. Program Access
    - i. Virtual Programming

#### **Projects and Capital Development**

1. Josiah Henson Museum and Park
2. Stream Restoration Projects
3. Park Acquisitions
  - a. Data-driven tools to focus on equity areas
  - b. Wheaton CBD (WMATA Property)
  - c. Veteran's Park Civic Green
  - d. Downtown Silver Spring
  - e. Willett Branch
4. Ken Gar Park Improvements
  - a. Soccer Field Renovation
  - b. Purple Line Wetland Mitigation Site
5. Park Visitation Project
  - a. George Mason University Visitation Study
  - b. Street Light Data
6. Parks Partnerships
  - a. Meadowbrook Stables
  - b. Shirley Povich Field Sculpture

#### **Athletic Fields**

1. White Oak Field
2. School Fields
3. Maintenance and Renovation Equipment & Efficiencies

#### **Trails**

1. Germantown Pump Track Improvements
2. Natural Surface Trail Projects

#### **Financial Support for Parks other than County Taxes**

1. Parks Foundation

2. Program Open Space
3. Bond Bill Updates
4. Public Private Partnerships
5. Enterprise
6. Volunteers

## Planning

### **Thrive Montgomery 2050**

- Planning Board final vote on April 8...will be transmitted to Council on schedule
- Three overarching objectives: economic competitiveness, racial and social equity, and environmental sustainability.
- Master Plans currently in process are already implementing Thrive objectives and are focused on equity, housing and a reimagining of the county's corridors.
  - Silver Spring Downtown and Adjacent Communities Plan
  - Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan
    - University of Maryland PALS program
    - Spring Speakers Series

### **Focus on Equity: Policy, Strategy, Tools**

- Equity Agenda for Planning
  - Equity Peer Review Group
  - Staff training
- Equity Focus Areas and Equity Opportunity Index
- Coordination with OLO on RESJ Impact Statements
- Street and Parks Facilities Renaming Review
- Missing Middle Housing efforts in master plans
- Vision Zero

### **Focus on Regional Transportation:**

- Corridor Forward: I-270 Transit Functional Plan
- I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study

### **Work Program Items (Funded and Unfunded)**

- Pedestrian Master Plan
- Predictive Safety Analysis
- Complete Streets Design Guidelines
- Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan
- Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment
- GSSC Minor Master Plan Amendment
- Advancing the Pike District Study
- Retail in Diverse Communities
- Mixed-Use Development Study
- Urban Loading Study Street and Parks Facilities Renaming Review (unfunded)
- Attainable Housing Strategies Study (unfunded)

# **Montgomery Parks + Planning**

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

- I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study (unfunded)

## **Regulatory Projects**

- Urby Silver Spring
- CentroNia/Martha Gudelsky CDC
- The Avondale
- Long Branch Corner
- Park Montgomery
- 909 Rose Office Building in the Pike District
- Creekside at Cabin Branch
- Ashford Woods
- College View Campus (project in Germantown)

## **Development Applications Stats** (since November 2020)

- Preliminary Plans
- Plats
- Sketch Plans
- Site Plans
- FCP Exemptions
- Mandatory Referrals

## **Community Engagement Stats** (since November 2020)

- Planning Board meeting views
- New eLetter subscribers
- Virtual events
- Virtual meeting participants

## **Upcoming Work Program Schedule FY22 Proposed**

Master Plan & Major Projects	2020					2021					2022					2023								
	FY21					FY22					FY23					FY24								
	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Germantown Plan for Town Sector Zone	■	■	■	■																				
Shady Grove Sector Plan - Minor Master Plan Amendment	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Ashton Village Center Sector Plan	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Thrive Montgomery 2050 General Plan Update	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Complete Streets Design Guide/Roadway Functional Class System	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■									
Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan Update	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■									
Great Seneca Science Corridor Plan Amendment Phase 1	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■									
Corridor Forward: The I-270 Transit Plan	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Silver Spring Downtown and Adjacent Communities Sector Plan	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Pedestrian Master Plan	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Life Sciences/Great Seneca Science Corridor Plan Amendment Phase 2											■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Silver Spring Communities Master Plan											■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
University Boulevard Corridor Plan											■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Clarksburg Master Plan Amendment											■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Subdivision Staging Policy/Growth and Infrastructure Policy	■	■	■	■	■																			
Advancing the Pike District	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Retail in Diverse Communities Study	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Urban Loading and Delivery Management Study	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative (NEW)						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Mixed Use Development: Current Status and Future Trends	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Equity Opportunity Index	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Predictive Safety Analysis	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■									
Access Management Study						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Innovative Housing Tool Kit						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Redlining/Segregation Mapping Tool						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Commercial Space Adaptability Study						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
E-Commerce and Logistics Industry Trends and Needs Assessment						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Wheaton Downtown Study						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			

Staff  
 Planning Board  
 Planning Board Draft  
 CE Review & Council Noticing Period  
 Hearing  
 Council Review  
 Commission Adoption, SMA  
 Montgomery County Elections